hydrolysis resistance (represented by tensile strength retention) as shown in Table 2. However the comparative examples of aliphatic polyamide without aromatic polyamide do not have such properties.

II. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 4 UNDER 35 USC 102(b) OR 35 USC 103(A) BASED UPON EP 0,488,335 (EP '355)

EP'335 requires in the composition 10 to 80 % by weight of graft modified alpha-olefin polymer. By contrast, the present invention does not contain and does not require this specific polymer, only other optional components (such as flame retardant, impact modifiers and heat stabilizers). EP'335 does not disclose the same composition as Applicants claim. EP'335 always relies for its properties on the specific graft modified alpha-olefin polymer, which the present invention does not contain and certainly does not require. The pending claims, as presently amended, recite a composition "consisting essentially of" certain essential components, and other components may be present as long as they do not detract from the operability of the invention.

The examples of EP '335 illustrate only specific aromatic polyamide/specific graft modified alpha-olefin polymer/aliphatic polyamide blends. Accordingly, it is impossible to predict what welding properties blends not containing the specific graft modified alpha-olefin polymer might possess. There is nothing in this reference that would lead one skilled in the art to the present invention.

III. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 4 UNDER 35 USC 102(E) OR 35 USC 103(a) BASED UPON US 6,291,633 (NAKAMURA)

Nakamura discloses a blend of 95 to 55 wt% crystalline, partly aromatic copolyamide resin containing one kind of aromatic monomer units (A-1) and/or the crystalline aliphatic polyamide resin (A-2) with 5 to 45 wt% polyamide resin comprising xylylenediamine units and aliphatic dicarboxylic acid units(B-1) or noncrystalline, partly aromatic copolyamide resin containing at least two kinds of aromatic monomer units, more preferably comprising two or more equimolar salts of an aliphatic diamine with an aromatic dicarboxylic acid (B-2).

There are dissimilarities in the proportions of polymeric components when comparing Nakamura to the present invention. The composition of the reference requires that the weight ratio of (B-1) or (B-2) to (A-1) or (A-2) is 5 to 50 wt% : 95 to 50 wt%.

By contrast, the composition of the present invention contains aromatic polyamide as claimed and aliphatic polyamide in a weight ratio of 99:1 to 5:95, preferably 97:3 to 50:50 and more preferably 95:5 to 80:20. Accordingly, Applicants contend that their respective compositions would have different welding profiles.

IV. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 4 UNDER 35 USC 103(a) BASED UPON EP 0,580,580 (EP '387)

The composition of EP '387 requires an aromatic diamine to form the aromatic polyamide, but the composition of the present invention does not require aromatic diamine as claimed. EP '387 is therefore quite dissimilar from Applicants' invention.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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